

News of Record

The following property transfers have been recorded in the Tucker County Clerk’s office:

- **Cynthia Louise Humphrey**, Black Fork District, 2.80 acres Haddix Creek and 1.89 acres to Charles Meleen and Mary E. Armstrong, \$145,000.
- **Arlene M. Schaffer**, Black Fork District, Lot 1, Section 1 containing 33,000 square feet to Joseph A. Mason and Brenda Mason, \$25,000.
- **Sherri L. Helmick**, Davis Corporation, Lot #335 to Sherri L. Helmick, Lori Quattro and Kimberly Idleman.
- **Kenneth Reed**, Davis District, Parcel Wester ½ Lot 222 and Parcel Eastern ½ Lot 222 to Matthew Reed and Angelique Reed, \$216,000.
- **Arvella R. Barr, Carl A. Barr, Timothy Barr, Gregory Barr and Jason Barr**, Dry Fork District, Unit F2, Week 51 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Timothy Barr, Jennifer Barr and Emma Barr.
- **Cathy L. Dove**, Dry Fork District, Unit F1

Week 40 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Beth Pennington.

- **Marlane Lucente and Marlin Miller**, Dry Fork District, Lot 5 to John Dehn and Jessica Dehn, \$588,900.
- **James R. Cain, Jr. and Deborah D. Cain**, Dry Fork district, Unit F12 Week 38 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association, Inc., \$550.
- **Geraldine B. Watkinson**, Dry Fork District, Unit E6 Week 49 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Land of Canaan home Owners Association, Inc., \$550.
- **Land of Canaan Home Owners Association, Inc.** Unit D2 Week 2 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Kevin West and Katrina West.
- **Ellis E. Cupp**, Dry Fork District, Unit A3 Week 41 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to Land of Canaan Home Owners Association Inc., \$550.
- **Ellis E. Cupp**, Dry Fork District, Unit G5 Week 29 Land of Canaan Vacation Resort to

Land of Canaan Home Owners Association, Inc., \$550.

- **Canyon Properties LLC**, Parsons Corporation, 1 parcel Jameson Ave to Shannon Marie Hoskins, \$79,900.
- **Marjorie Jane Wright Poling and James Pershing Poling**, Parsons Corporation, 7/8 of an acre to Marjorie Jane Wright Poling and James Pershing Poling.
- **Gary W. Hott, Gregory W. Hott, Allyson E. Hott-Evans, Danny F. Hebb and Michelle D. Hott-Hebb**, St. George District, 130.38 acres Leadmine Road to Gary W. Hott, Gregory W. Hott, Allyson E. Hott-Evans, Danny F. Hebb and Michelle D. Hott-Hebb.
- **Dennis Paul Kelley and Noah David Kelley**, St. George District, 200.33 acres Leadmine Mountain to Corey Kelley and Cullen Kelley, \$195,000.
- **Karen Elaine Hedio and Keith Allen Hershman**, St. George District, Parcel of real estate situate on waters of Leadmine Road to Christopher Matthew Hedio.

LAWSUIT

Cont. From Front Page 1

sons Advocate, the suit seeks a Declaratory Judgment by Jury Trial to invalidate all of the ordinance from imposing hotel and lodging fees with out authorization from the West Virginia Legislature and other fees “in a manner prohibited both under West Virginia law and under the dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.”

The suit maintains that the Commission overstepped their authority by imposing the fee on lodging establishments, including short term rentals such as Airbnb units. The suit argues that the 2% fee equates to an additional, unlawful tax that exceeds the 6% State cap on Hotel/Motel tax already in place within the County by raising the rate on lodging to 8%.

“Timberline Mountain wants to be part of the solution, but it is not the problem. Most clearly, the ordinance is pre-empted by the Hotel Tax Act because it results in an 8% hotel/motel occupancy tax. Further, the Emergency Ambulance Act empowers a county to impose a fee on EMS users,” said attorney David Nelson, who represents Timberline Mountain in a statement released to the press. “Yet Tucker County’s ordinance attempts to evade the statute’s purpose by limiting the definition of 'users' to a narrow slice of businesses and individuals, mostly engaged in interstate commerce, who use EMS infrequently, while at the same time exempting the highest users from any fee burden. The ordinance fees are not reasonably connected to the services provided to recreational activity participants, or to the majority of persons who do use them. This creates an untenable legal issue both under the West Virginia statute and under federal constitutional law.”

The suit also claims that the ordinance is discriminatory against Interstate Commerce and thereby is violating the Constitution by disrupting interstate commerce. The suit alleges that because the plaintiffs engage in online commerce with customers from across the country, this constitutes Interstate Commerce and is thereby regulated by Congress and federal law.

An additional complaint in the suit alleges that the ordinance is not compliant with the Emergency Ambulance Act by which the ordinance's authority is derived. The suit alleges, “there is an insufficient nexus between the payment of the fees and the use of the ambulance service, as the fee deliberately burdens those least likely to use the service while excluding those most likely to use the service from contributing.”

“We welcome fair solutions to funding EMS services,”

said Jonathan Davis, Executive Director of Timberline Mountain in a written statement released to the press. “But this fee, as constructed, punishes businesses that contribute to the local economy and EMS system, while ignoring those who use the service most and often pay nothing at all. This approach risks undermining both our industry and the quality of EMS for Tucker County residents.”

The Emergency Ambulance Service Act of 1975 was established to allow counties to raise funds to support emergency ambulance services within the county. The suit alleges that by imposing the fee on entertainment establishments, especially lodging, the Commission overstepped the bounds of the law. The suit claims that until November of 2024, Counties simply relied on imposing fees on residents alone to fund ambulance services by, “reasonably devised ordinances that impose emergency ambulance fees in a uniform and rational manner, such as by making assessments uniformly against all properties with dwellings and other locations where business is conducted in person within the county.”

The suit further alleges that Tucker County residents make up less than .007% of those engaging in recreational activities, but do not provide a source for the figure. The suit also alleges that the ordinance also provides safeguards to shield residents from fees while participating in locally centered recreation fees because the ordinance excludes registered non-profit organizations, schools, churches, senior centers, the Tucker County Fair, Tucker County 4-H and the Tucker County Animal Shelter.

In the suit, the plaintiffs allege that out of 1,346 emergency ambulance responses in 2024, the three largest hotel and recreation centers of Timberline Mountain, Canaan Valley Lodge and Blackwater Lodge saw a combined total of 70 emergency unit responses or 6% of the total EMS ambulance runs for the year.

The suit further asserted that the senior center outside Thomas accounted for 213 emergency ambulance responses that year. It went on to claim that the various St. George Medical Clinic locations accounted for 94 calls while other senior apartment complexes collectively accounted for 75 and the high school football field saw 17.

To date, according to the court documents, Timberline has paid more than \$92,000 into the Special Fee Fund under the ordinance with \$75,683 paid under protest. A footnote attached to the statement said that Timberline and the County Commission had entered into a separate

EMS contract to have equipment and personnel stationed on location during peak ski visitor times. The note stated, “Timberline paid more than \$17,000 for the privilege of having emergency ambulance services immediately available at its facility and to its customers.”

A written statement released to the press states that, “For years, Timberline Mountain has invested heavily in self-funded emergency medical coverage, including contracting ALS-level EMT services during peak periods and sharing resources with neighboring resorts and residents. Timberline’s ski patrol manages most incidents internally, and EMS transports originating from Timberline represent a fraction of total county calls.”

The statement also states that the ordinance potentially damages the region's tourism economy by increasing cost to visitors and placing businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

The suit seeks a declaration that the hotel fee and short term rental fee within the ordinance is preempted by West Virginia Code, a declaration enjoining Tucker County from enforcing the ordinance because it is violating the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, that the Court issue a declaration that the Tucker County Commission exceeded the limited scope of authority in enacting the ordinance and the Court grant any further relief it sees fit. The documents also request a jury trial for all matters so triable.

RIDGELINE

Cont. From Front Page 1

the document states. The changes include the addition of hourly formaldehyde limits to the maximum hourly emission tables when combusting natural gas and/or diesel, the addition of formaldehyde emission limits to the maximum annual emission limit table, the addition of language that the optimal injection rate of aqueous ammonia into each SCR is conducted for each fuel, the revision of permit condition that the aggregate fuel consumption (natural gas/diesel) must be monitored hourly instead of daily, addition of language to monitor ammonia injection rate established in permit condition, addition of a permit condition to monitor the gross energy output of each combustion turbine on a continuous basis, revision to permit

condition to recognize that Method 320 – Vapor Phase Organic and Inorganic Emissions by Extractive FTIR can also be utilized as a performative test method for CO emissions, addition of a permit condition to require record keeping of the optimal ammonia injection rate to each SCR when combusting either fuel and addition of a permit condition to require record keeping of the gross energy output for each combustion turbine on a continuous basis.

The document also declares that due to community concerns over formaldehyde emissions, Fundamental Data will be required to conduct an initial performance test to ensure compliance with the hourly formaldehyde value when combusting natu-

ral gas.

The 140 page Response to Public Comments goes into deeper depth in answering and addressing the comments and concerns raised in both the statements made during the public meeting, but more importantly, during the open comment period. The document addresses such subjects as pollutants, HB2014, regulations and testing in detail, as well as addresses the community's concerns to public health, well being and the DAQ's role in determination. Most of the document is dedicated to Q and A of submitted comments from community members. There is also contained a listing of all those who submitted comments, as well as those who attended the public meeting.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE

Serving the people of Tucker County since 1896

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PARSONS ADVOCATE LETTERS TO EDITOR POLICY

The Parsons Advocate encourages letters to the editor. Letters can be mailed to P.O. Box 345, Parsons, WV 26287 (envelopes must show a return address), faxed to 304-478-1086, e-mailed to mikie@parsonsadvocate.com or dropped off at our office at 219 Central Ave.

Submissions must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. This is for verification purposes.

Letters can be submitted only once each 30 days and can not exceed 500 words.

Submitting a letter does not guarantee it will be published. All letters become prop-

erty of The Parsons Advocate. The Parsons Advocate reserves the right to edit and/or reject letters. Personal attacks, lies, and etc. will not be published.

The views expressed in letters are not necessarily the views of the Parsons Advocate.

Thank you notes and advertising are not considered as letters to the editor. When submitting letters do not use all caps, italics or bold. Use punctuation, upper and lower case letters and indent for paragraphs.

If you have any questions, please call us at 304-478-3533.

SPORTS

Spike Talk: Inside the Net with Lady Mountain Lions Volleyball

Rylee White

Position: Block Outside
Class: 2026
Favorite Thing About Volleyball: My favorite thing is the team bond, it's like a second family.
Favorite Volleyball Memory: My favorite memory is the practices and all the little funny things that happened during them.
Favorite Movie: My favorite movie is all three of the Cars movies.
Favorite Food: My favorite food is crab.
Dream Job: My dream job is to be a veterinarian.
Other Sports You Play: I also play softball and film for football.
Favorite Pro Athlete: My favorite pro athlete is Sam Landry.
Aspirations for 2025 Season: Aspirations for the upcoming season is Improving my skills and helping the team to win. Hopefully making it to states!
Plans after high school: After



high school I plan to attend college and major in pre-veterinary medicine.

Miriam Spencer

Position: Setter
Class: 2027
Favorite Thing About Volleyball: My favorite thing about this sport would have to be the love that all of my teammates and I share for the game.
Favorite Volleyball Memory: Favorite Memory would be my entire eighth grade season, which helped me grow as a player and teammate (Thank you, Liz).
Favorite Movie: West Side Story is a movie I could watch over and over.
Favorite Food: I could eat Sushi for every meal.
Dream Job: Working with Roblox would be my dream because Roblox is life.
Other Sports You Play: The only other sport I'm into is Super



League Soccer on Roblox
Favorite Pro Athlete: Serena Williams is an amazing athlete, and she shows that loving the game and working hard can take you far.
Aspirations for 2025 Season: This season, I'm going to work harder than I have in my previous years for my team and coach.
Plans after high school: After high school, I plan to major in Psychology at whichever college I decide on.

Isabella Rivera

Position: Outside Hitter
Class: 2027
Favorite Thing About Volleyball: The physical and mental challenge.
Favorite Volleyball Memory: When the girls would come into the middle of the court, we'd talk and help each other.
Favorite Movie: The Forge
Favorite Food: Steak Hoagie
Dream Job: Marine Biologist
Other Sports You Play: None
Favorite Pro Athlete: Paige Bueckers
Aspirations for 2025 Season: Just to have fun and have a positive mindset when going onto the court.



Plans after high school: College

Position: Outside
Class: 2027
Favorite Thing About Volleyball: Spiking it onto others!
Favorite Volleyball Memory: I blocked a D1 player.
Favorite Movie: Beauty and the Beast
Favorite Food: Pasta Salad
Dream Job: Dentist
Other Sports You Play: Basketball
Favorite Pro Athlete: Harper Murry, Nebraska Volleyball
Aspirations for 2025 Season: To get



100 kills.
Plans after high school: Go to college, become a dentist, and have a family and property.

Tucker Golf Team Claims Back-to-Back Third-Place Finishes

By: Adam Freeman
The golf team hit the road twice this past week, competing in two challenging matches against strong regional opponents.
On Monday, the team played an 18-hole match at the Raven Golf Club at Snowshoe, hosted by Tygarts Valley. The event featured six teams from across the region. Despite facing tough competition and not playing to their full potential, the team secured a respectable third-place finish. They were narrowly edged out by host team Tygarts Valley, who placed second, and AAA powerhouse Greenbrier East, who claimed first.
Junior Nate Davis led the team with a strong performance, finishing fifth individually with a score of 93.
The team returned to action on Thursday for a 9-hole match at the Arnold Palmer Signature Course at Stonewall Jackson Resort, hosted by Lewis County High School. Once again, the team took third place, trailing only AAA schools Lewis County and Grafton.
Juniors Nate Davis and Drew Simmons both finished in the top 10 individually, continuing their consistent play throughout the season.
Looking ahead, the team faces a busy week with three matches on the schedule: Monday at Clarksburg Country Club (hosted by Notre Dame High School), Tuesday at The Pines Country Club in Morgantown (hosted by Trinity High School), and a home match Thursday at Holly Meadows Golf Course.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PARSONS ADVOCATE

GO. TEAM!
Good luck to our local student athletes!

Tucker County Gears Up for Season After Gritty PBHS Scrimmage

By: Adam Freeman
The Tucker County High School football team took the field for their first pre-season test Friday night, traveling to Barbour County to face the Philip Barbour Colts in a scrimmage matchup. Despite a strong effort, the Mountain Lions came up short, falling 24-14.
Tucker County's offense showed flashes of promise throughout the contest. Quarterback Luke Barb connected with Reid Kisamore on a 22-yard touchdown pass for the team's first score of the night. Later, Cade Rapp broke loose for a 28-yard touchdown run, adding another highlight to the team's performance.
The scrimmage was also an opportunity for younger players to gain valuable experience, as starting quarterback Sam Marks remains sidelined with an injury.
While the scoreboard favored the Colts, the game offered meaningful reps and development for Tucker County as they prepare for the upcoming season.
The Mountain Lions will be back in action this Thursday at 6 p.m. as they travel to Doddridge County for a Grid-O-Rama, where they'll face off in controlled matchups against Doddridge County and East Fairmont High School.

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Davis-Thomas Golf Holds Their Own in Tough Match at Valley View

By: Adam Freeman
The Davis-Thomas Bears golf team turned in a solid performance Thursday afternoon at Valley View Golf Course, placing fourth in a competitive five-team match.
Leading the way for the Bears was Nolan Luzier, who shot a 47 to finish third overall individually, just three strokes behind the low medalist of the match. Luzier's consistent play helped anchor the Bears' team score of 244.
Also contributing to the team total were Jarrett Dearborn (61), Hunter Lipscomb (67), Bryson Mihalko (69), and Briar Arbogast (71), each adding valuable rounds on a challenging course.
Petersburg claimed the team victory with an impressive score of 205, followed by Pendleton County in second place at 213. Capon Bridge secured third with a 239, narrowly edging out Davis-Thomas. Romney Middle rounded out the standings in fifth place.
The Bears continue to show growth and potential as they progress through their season, with Luzier's standout round highlighting the team's ability to compete closely with strong programs.
The Bears will return to action at Highlands Golf Course in Pendleton County on August 20.

Your community. Your healthcare. Good Luck!

Tucker County High Mt. Lions
Tucker Valley Wildcats
Davis Thomas Bears

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What's? Happening

Summer's Last Sizzle

St. John's Lutheran Church of Red House is sponsoring a Pork BBQ at Mt. Grove VFD Community Building Saturday, Aug. 23. Fellowship from 5 – 5:30 p.m. followed by Blessing and Dinner. Pickin' Empty Pockets will play music at 7 p.m. There is no charge as this is our "Thank You" to our com-

munity.

The 99th annual Loughry Reunion Will be held Sunday, Aug. 24, at the former Aaron Loughry farm at Seven Islands, Tucker County. Dinner and activities begin at 12 noon. Bring a covered dish and help us make plans for the 100th in 2026.



Charleston WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Aug. 20, 1851: The oldest statue in West Virginia, a nine-foot wood carving of Patrick Henry, was dedicated at the county courthouse in Morgantown.

Aug. 20, 2004: Eldora Bolyard Nuzum died in Elkins. While working for the Grafton Sentinel in 1946, she became the first female editor of a daily newspaper in West Virginia. For three decades, she was editor of the Elkins Inter-Mountain.

Aug. 21, 1861: Confederate troops under General John B. Floyd crossed the Gauley River at Carnifex Ferry, Nicholas County, and began to entrench their position. It was the beginning of what became known as the Battle of Keslers Cross Lanes.

Aug. 21, 1915: Singer Ann Baker was born in Pennsylvania. She later operated a popular Charleston nightclub, The Shalamar, and became known as "Charleston's First Lady of Jazz."

Aug. 22, 1872: Following the Constitutional Convention of 1872, the West Virginia electorate ratified a new state constitution by a vote of 42,344 to 37,777. In the same election, voters rejected a controversial convention proposition that would have prohibited Black citizens from holding public office.

Aug. 23, 1949: John Chambers was born in Cleveland but spent much of his formative years in Ravenswood and Charleston. He is best known as the former CEO and chairman of the Cisco Systems technology company.

Aug. 23, 1965: Sylvia Mathews Burwell was born in Hinton. She was U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (2014-17) under President Obama before serving as American University's first woman president (2017-24).

Aug. 23, 1970: The Mormon Church established its first "stake," or congregation, in West Virginia. The stake was organized in Charleston with a membership of nearly 4,000 people.

Aug. 24, 1918: Louis Bennett Jr. died of injuries sustained when his plane was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire. Bennett, with 12 combat kills, was West Virginia's only World War I fighter ace.

Aug. 24, 1947: Joe Manchin III was born in Fairmont. He served in both houses of the legislature and as secretary of state before becoming the 34th governor in 2005. In 2010, he ran successfully for the late Robert C. Byrd's



Aug. 22, 1874: John Kee, the patriarch of a powerful political family, was born in Glenville. He relocated to Bluefield in 1910 and was first elected to Congress in 1932, eventually chairing the House Foreign Affairs Committee. After his death in 1951, his widow, Elizabeth, filled his seat (1951-65), followed by their son James (1965-73).

U.S. Senate seat and stepped down as governor. He retired from the Senate in 2025.

August 25, 1903: Soprano Susanne Fisher was born in Sutton. Fisher was the first West Virginian to sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

Aug. 25, 1921: Miners began to arrive at Blair Mountain near the border of Logan and Boone counties. Sheriff Don Chafin, a hated symbol of anti-unionism in southern West Virginia, met them with a combined force of deputies, mine guards, civilian volunteers and others.

Aug. 25, 2000: The Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope was dedicated. It is the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope.

Aug. 26, 1863: Union and Confederate forces collided in what became known as the Battle of White Sulphur Springs. The next morning, with ammunition nearly depleted, Union General William Averell retreated to his base without accomplishing any of his objectives.

Aug. 26, 1918: Mathematician Katherine Johnson was born in White Sulphur Springs. For 33 years, Johnson worked for NASA, making calculations for manned space flights, including the Apollo 11 moon landing. In 2015, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

By Teri Cayton

The Parsons Advocate

As I walk the dog, I notice a lot of milkweed plants growing along the roadside. We used to play with the "fluff" out of the seed pods making it fly in the air. We would even climb into trees and launch it so it would fly farther. I heard some interesting information not too long ago. It said that the milkweed seed floss saved many lives in WWII. Apparently, there was a shortage of Kapok that was used the stuff life jackets. **Momma Said**, "That could have been a disaster."

But the American people rallied and sent parents and children out to pick the milkweed pods that were full of this floss. It is naturally buoyant and water repellant so it worked out perfect. It is also six times warmer than wool so could have been used as insulation in flight suits as well.

Also, a great fact about the lowly milkweed is that it is the only food the monarch

Momma Said

This column is about tips, helpful hints, recipes and words of wisdom. I dedicate this column to my mother.

By Teri Cayton
The Parsons Advocate



butterfly caterpillars eat. The toxin in the plant makes predators stay away from the caterpillars and that keeps them safe. The milky sap can be an irritant to skin and eyes so be careful if you are going to harvest any.

Native Indians used milkweed for pulmonary problems and diarrhea. It can be deadly to dogs but deer and rabbits have been observed eating it. **Momma Said**, "Helpful to some, harmful to others." There is a niche for everything if you just do your research.

CHILI MAC AND CHEESE

INGREDIENTS

For the Chili

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1-2 tablespoons chili powder, to taste
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes

INSTRUCTIONS

- Warm the olive oil over medium heat in a large pot or Dutch oven. Add the diced onion and cook until soft. Add the garlic and chopped pepper. Cook until fragrant.
- Add the ground beef. Cook until browned, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. Add the chili powder, cumin, and paprika. Cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring constantly.
- Turn the heat to medium-high. Mix in the crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce, kidney beans, and beef broth. Bring to a boil, and add the uncooked elbow macaroni. Stir and reduce the heat to medium.

- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 (14-ounce) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed

For the Mac

- 1 cup beef broth
- 8 ounces uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (or Monterey Jack), divided
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- salt and pepper, to taste

Simmer for 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until the pasta is al dente.

- When the sauce has thickened and the pasta is cooked, remove the pot from the heat. Add 1/2 cup cheddar cheese and 3/4 cup mozzarella. Add only a little at a time, stirring well between each addition until melted. Adjust seasonings, then sprinkle the remaining cheese on top. Cover with a lid for 2 minutes until the cheese melts.
- Season with salt and pepper, if needed and serve with desired toppings. Enjoy!

LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"

304-478-3533

Super Crossword

FETE-FUL FOLLOWERS

ACROSS

- 1 Little jump
4 Brains
10 Teeny bits
15 Female horse
19 Friend, in Paris
20 Social outcast
21 Ice cream utensil
22 Female gamete
23 Cap production place
25 — firma
26 "I saw," to Caesar
27 Newspaper stories
28 Vehicle attachment to transport watercraft
30 "Get it?"
31 "Ender's Game" star
33 Actress Long or Vardalos
34 Closes in on
35 Cry while wearing a costume
41 Some boxing punches
43 On top of, in verse
44 Divine figure
45 Feel poorly

- 47 Pub barrel
51 Pundits' paper pieces
54 Power to attract others
57 Unceasingly
59 Newbie at a law school
60 Sculling tool
61 Org. that screens bags
62 Patron of sailors
63 "Second gentleman" Emhoff
65 Forget to say
67 Lots and lots
68 Logical thought process
72 Some sharp turns
75 Coll. lecturer
76 Low-fat, informally
77 Piña —
81 "I have it!"
82 Hosp. test in a big tube
83 Christian of fashion
85 Led to a seat
86 Typical D.C. dealings
91 County in New Mexico or Colorado
92 Method
93 Muscle: Prefix

- 94 University of Maine's city
96 Neighbor of Kan. and Ia.
97 Pro at taking dictation
99 Swear words and such
103 Clear wrap
106 Says "yes" to
108 USN officers
109 Sleuth, in old slang
110 Straight, flexible wire receiving waves
113 Rather little
118 Prefix with present
119 Gorme of song
120 Post-event bash ... or where eight key words in this puzzle might appear
122 Diatribe
123 U. of Maryland team
124 Band flunky
125 Atlas feature
126 Pivotal WWII event
127 Eye maladies
128 Prods
129 "Yes" vote

DOWN

- 1 "Funny joke!"

- 2 Vizquel of baseball
3 Brad of "Fight Club"
4 Sissy of the screen
5 Gavin of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
6 Jester Johnson
7 Ocho — (resort in Jamaica)
8 Pothole filler
9 Sheepish
10 Colon's meaning in an analogy
11 Whale locale
12 Burrito base
13 Large arteries
14 Trade jabs
15 Apt place to make a scene
16 Birthplace of St. Teresa
17 Less courteous
18 Kuwaiti chiefs
24 Finance-related: Abbr.
28 Lamb's cry
29 Growth on an elk's head
31 Intro studio class
32 Jane of "Live and Let Die"
35 Horn blasts

- 36 Transplant, as a flower
37 Cara of "Fame" fame
38 Enjoy a novel
39 Element #50
40 Chronicle
42 Zealots
46 "This makes no sense to me"
48 Singer Eartha
49 Canadian gas brand
50 FBI guy, e.g.
52 Barbies, e.g.
53 Big rig
55 Poet Maya
56 Enter
58 Like numbers with more than two divisors
63 "Whoop-de- —!"
64 When a team travels, perhaps
66 TV bartender
67 Shoe lace tag
69 "Will & Grace" actor
70 Ventilates
71 Big Apple neighborhood
72 Microwaves, informally
73 Sailor's cry
74 Lassies

- 78 Sports center
79 Removal of govt. controls
80 Pueblo brick
82 E. Sicilian volcano
84 "Time — the essence!"
85 Forearm part
87 "How sad"
88 Cure by exposing to burning wood
89 E-addresses
90 Gmail rival
95 A Great Lake
98 "Later"
100 Rock- — jukebox
101 Alternative to a ballpoint
102 Golden State sch.
103 Fencing need
104 Ex-NFLer
105 Lisa of "Melrose Place"
107 Marsh bird
111 Fish snares
112 Scottish loch
113 Forest buck
114 Contents of Rx bottles
115 "— la Douce"
116 Go nowhere
117 Really promote
120 "How — you?"
121 Haze

Weather Totals

Aug. 5 - Aug. 12, 2025

Nursery Bottom
Parsons

Temperature

Max 92° F
Min 51° F

Precipitation

Week 0.00"
August 0.35"
2025 37.86"

Snowfall

New Snow 0"
Snow on ground 0"
Winter Total 47"

U.S. Forest Service

Weekly SUDOKU

5					7	1	6	
		1					4	3
7	4	6		3	1	5		
					4			
				8	5		9	7
9	7	8		2		4		5
	5	2		4				7
4		7		1	2			6
1	9		6	7				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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AMBULANCE

had one rig. I can remember one time in the past three years where we've been down to zero because they are so old. Things will go out on them on a regular basis.”

Simmons said that in the past couple of days, a crew had to change out rigs because a wheel was about to come off of a rig. The replacement rig then had the batteries go out. One rig is currently receiving a \$35,000 motor. Simmons described the costs of maintenance as “astronomical.”

“They were from 2014, though and they had been running this whole time,” Simmons said. “They're old. What do you do with old? You just keep repairing.”

The cost of maintaining equipment isn't the only financial hardship the Authority faces. The cost of medications for the rigs is also exceptionally high, according to Simmons. Simmons said \$12,000 has already been spent this year on medications and equipment for the trucks.

“Its needed,” Simmons said. “Its not where, this is where I would love to have this. No, its a necessity.”

Simmons said the trucks are inspected by the State once a year. Tucker County completed their inspection the week prior and “everything was perfect on them.” Simmons said that the glowing inspection is due to the fact that the service keeps the trucks up and stays on top of what is on board.

“You can go out of business if you have one thing on your truck that is out of date,” Simmons said.

Tucker County Commissioner Fred Davis commented that he remembers another organization that proposed coming in at an initial up front cost of \$100,000 and then a monthly fee of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to have the crews on site for runs.

“Because that literally is how much we go in the hole every year,” Simmons said. “Our organization can only provide for itself for a \$1.4 million budget, we are only able to actually bring in roughly \$600,000 a year and that's on a good year.”

Simmons said last year, the service had over 1,400 calls, of which they do medical billing. Simmons said in her first year, medical billing was upped \$184,000,

ST. GEORGE

Cont. From Page 1

pened to be closer to the area.”

One such device, White said was called a LifeVac. The device is designed to be placed over the victim's mouth and through the use of a one way valve, it sucks out and dislodges foreign objects from the throat.

“It is a one way valve that has a mask on it, for pediatric or adult, you place it on the victim's mouth and you push in and pull out and it will literally suck an object out of their (throat),” White said.

Several factors can weigh into why Law Enforcement could be the first on scene. White said they simply could be closer or Fire and EMS crews could be responding to calls in other areas of the County or returning from calls.

“There are incidents where Law Enforcement are ahead of us by minutes or something, just because they just happen to be in the area,” White said. “The incident is happening on Main Street and our Ambulance just happens to be coming back from DM or our Fire Department is on another call in St. George. They're closer.”

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cont. From Front Page 1

coats or boots, that's all equipment together, has gone up 120% since 2019.”

The high cost of equipment recently priced the Parsons Fire Department out of a new Fire Truck. As a creative solution, the Department sent an older truck to a facility to be rebuilt from the frame up at a fraction of the cost.

“Meaning that, that fire truck that used to cost \$400,000 now costs a million dollars and that's just the way it is,” White said.

It is not just the cost of vehicles that has raised. The cost to put each fire fighter in gear is also high. The Parsons Volunteer Fire Department alone has 42 volunteers that each have to have their own individual gear purchased at least every 10 years, whether it needs it or not, due to State regulations. According to White, boots alone cost the department \$500 a pair and in total the average Fire Fighter's gear costs a department \$17,000 per person.

Rosenau said that the County Commission one day hopes to increase funding to the County's Fire Companies through Hotel/Motel fund monies. The hope is with the implementation of the 2% Special Ambulance Fee assisting EMS funding, more Hotel/Motel fund money could be directed to the County Fire Companies in the future.

“The 2% fee being placed on certain things in our

mainly due to making sure that the billing was being completed properly with insurance companies. The service also provides medical transports for extra funding, as well.

“We've done everything we can do to source funding,” Simmons said. “When you have that large of a budget and you are losing roughly \$400 per call by just going out, yes, its vital that we have sustainable funding.”

The service has obtained some Covid funds that have allowed the Authority to maintain service since an initial funding deadline of July 1.

“However, we have been using quite a bit of our escrow,” Simmons said.

Currently, the Ambulance service is running a bare bones operations in an effort to stay afloat. However, even with the Authority's dire financial situation, it seeks to continue to serve the community to the best of its ability, Simmons said.

“We have still tried to increase services even though we are running at very bare minimum,” Simmons said.

Currently, the service has two full time medics and a third that was completing testing for certification. The service currently has full coverage six days a week with several part-time medics on staff to assist, as well. There have been 24 hour crews at Station One (Parsons) and a 12 hour crew during the day until 8 p.m. at Station Two (Davis), Simmons said, on several occasions.

“But come 8 o'clock we go back to one station,” Simmons said.

Simmons said that she attended a fundraiser at Deerfield HOA in Canaan Valley. The HOA raised \$3,600 for the Ambulance Authority at the six hour event.

“They were phenomenal,” Simmons said. “I was so overwhelmed by their generosity.”

Several homeowners in the HOA have Airbnb's and had questions that Simmons was able to answer for them. Several Airbnb owners did not realize the funding needs and cost associated with the service. Simmons also said that the night before at a get together, there was need of an ambulance and many were able

The St. George Medical Clinic grant was federally mandated that it must go towards Emergency Services, White said. With the grant, White said he was able to obtain not only LifeVac systems for all Law Enforcement in the County, but also forcible entry tools called Halligan bars for each, as well to assist in car extractions or home fire extractions.

“I was able to obtain LifeVacs for all of the Law Enforcement Officers in Tucker County and I was also able to obtain a forcible entry tool or a Halligan Bar so if they come across a car on fire they can get a glass out or a house on fire and the doors are all locked up, they can take that tool, remove the door knob and pry the door open,” White said.

In total, White said it amounted to about \$5,000 worth of equipment.

“Its about \$5,000 in equipment that every one of our Law Enforcement Officers received, those two pieces of equipment,” White said.

County, can only be spent on Ambulance Service,” Rosenau said. “Well, we have another mechanism in our County called the Hotel/Motel Fund. The Hotel/Motel Funds, there's guidelines we have for that. One of the guidelines and one of the things that you can help fund is Fire Departments, EMS.”

The County Commission's hope is to one day better fund all emergency services in Tucker County to assist both residents and visitors alike, Rosenau said.

“So the Commission's way of thinking is, with the 2% in place that goes directly to EMS, the Ambulances, we're hoping in time, we could reduce the money from Hotel/Motel going to EMS and can increase going to Fire Companies because we have that availability to do that with Hotel/Motel,” Rosenau said. “So the long term plan is that is what we are hoping to do so that all of our services in our County can be better funded.”

White said the money would not only be appreciated, but needed by the County Fire Companies.

“Not only is it needed, but it would be greatly appreciated, if that could come to fruition,” White said.

However, with the current battle the County faces over the Special Ambulance Fee in not only the District, but as of August 14th, Federal Courts, there is no word on when any more funds may be directed towards the County's Fire Departments.

to see the staff in action.

“It just worked out perfectly so they got to see what services we could provide to them,” Simmons said.

Tucker County Commission President Mike Rosenau said that he understands the individual operators that support the Commission and its mission to support Emergency Services.

“The ones I have problems with are the major players in this game, this 2% fee,” Rosenau said. “The ones that have the attorneys, the ones that have the knowledge of everything that is going on in the business world. This is an example of how crucial the 2% fee is for the million plus guest that come to our county every year to contribute that little bit that helps us maintain coverage for everyone, the guests as well as the residents.”

The Commission approved Simmons request for funding. Rosenau said that the fund exists solely for use by the Ambulance Authority to maintain services in the County by State Code.

“By State Code, that is the only thing this 2% fee can be used for is the Ambulance Authority,” Rosenau said. “The collection of this 2% can only be spent on the ambulance services in our county.”

LEGAL

I have before me the accounts of the Executor or Administrator of the estates of the following deceased persons:

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
James Patrick Nichols	Patrick A. Nichols
1st publication 8/13/25	PO Box 544
2nd publication 8/20/25	Davis, WV 26260

Claims against any estate must be filed within sixty days of the date of first publication. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint to the Tucker County Commission, Tucker County Clerk, 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons, WV. Any person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court must be filed with County Commission within sixty days after the date of first publication or thirty days of service of the notice, whichever is later.

ATTEST: SHERRY SIMMONS, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

LEGAL

I have before me the accounts of the Executor or Administrator of the estates of the following deceased persons:

Deceased	Personal Representative(s)
Nancy Pat Beery	John W. Jones
1st publication 8/20/25	98 Sullivan Drive
2nd publication 8/27/25	Elkins, WV 26241
William Michael Small, Sr.	Latrella Small
1st publication 8/20/25	PO Box 116
2nd publication 8/27/25	Davis, WV 26260

Claims against any estate must be filed within sixty days of the date of first publication. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint to the Tucker County Commission, Tucker County Clerk, 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons, WV. Any person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court must be filed with County Commission within sixty days after the date of first publication or thirty days of service of the notice, whichever is later.

ATTEST: SHERRY SIMMONS, TUCKER COUNTY CLERK

LEGAL

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed before the Tucker County Commission at 211 First St., Suite 205, Parsons, WV 26287.

That no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the following decedent has been filed with the Tucker County Commission and is of record in the Tucker County Clerk's Office.

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this State must be filed with the County Commission within 60 days after the first publication sate or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

1st Publication Date: August 13, 2024

Decedent: Harold O. Gooden, Jr.

Filed By: Harold O. Gooden, III
3209 Hargrove Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Relationship: Son

Subscribed and sworn to before me on August 5, 2025
Sherry Simmons
Tucker County Clerk

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Under authority of that certain Order of the Circuit Court of Tucker County, West Virginia entered on April 23, 2025 in that certain civil action entitled “*Northpoint Property Owners’ Association, Inc v. Care Family Revocable Living Trust, Courtney Steckley, Trustee*,” Civil Action No. 2024-C-36”, you are hereby notified that the undersigned Special Commissioner will, on the 10th day of September, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., of said day, offer for sale at the front door of the Tucker County Courthouse (Seneca Trail entrance, across from McDonald's) in Parsons, West Virginia, subject to all reservations, exceptions, easements, and other matters which appear of record, and subject to all unpaid taxes, if any, all that certain lot or parcel of real estate, a lot or parcel of land designated as Lot No. 112 of Northpoint Woods - Section A, situate about 0.3 miles northwest of WV Route 32 and 0.6 miles south of the intersection of WV Secondary Route 35, south of Canaan Heights, Dry Fork District, Tucker County, West Virginia, and as depicted on that certain plat prepared by Leon G. Mallow of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Tucker County, West Virginia, in Plat Cabinet A, Slide 195, to which said real estate being Tax Map 310, Parcel 2, Dry Fork District. And being the same real estate conveyed to the Care Family Revocable Trust, dated March 6, 1993, Thomas H. Care and Romain W. Care, Trustees, by LMB, a Maryland Partnership, by deed dated the 11th day of February, 1994, and of record in said Clerk's Office in Deed Book 144 at Page 521.

TERMS OF SALE: Five Percent (5%) cash in hand or certified funds on day of sale as a deposit with the balance due and payable within sixty (60) days of the day of sale.

The Special Commissioner shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

Given under my hand this 5th day of August, 2025.

Sherry Simmons
Tucker County Clerk



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

TIMBERLINE ASSOCIATION, INC

Canaan Valley

Needed Guard for TAI Gatehouse

40-hr/week; \$15/hr

8-hr shifts: 7-3, 3-11, 11-7

~Benefits Included~

--Enjoy working with people--

Applications at the guardhouse on Timberline Rd

LEGAL



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

THAT WE ARE DESTROYING OLD FILES.

YOUR FILES WILL BE DESTROYED IF YOU DO NOT PICK IT UP BEFORE

September 30, 2025

You May Upon Providing Proof Of Identity Pickup Your File At Any Time Between 9:00 Am And 4:00 Pm At Our Office.

Please Call Ahead To Setup A Time To Pick Up Your Files At 304-623-9711

Family Law Associates • 230 Court Street • Clarksburg, Wv 26301

LEGAL

WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th street, S.E.
Charleston, WV 25304
Telephone: (304) 926-0495

Public Notice No. Section 401-MN-25-001
Public Notice Date: August 18, 2025 - August 22, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
PROPOSED 401 CERTIFICATIONS FOR US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS
ACTIVITIES FOR DISCHARGES OF DREDGE AND FILL MATERIAL INTO WATERS OF THE U.S.
Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and WV Legislative Rule 47CSR5A, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is accepting public comments prior to issuing a 401 certification for the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) proposed Regional General Permit (RGP) and Letter of Permission (LOP) procedures for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US (WOTUS) for activities associated with the construction, maintenance, and operation of energy and energy resource-related projects in West Virginia. WVDEP will consider the proposed RGP and LOP's impact on water resources, fish, and wildlife, recreation, critical habitats, wetlands and other natural resources. On June 4, 2025, the USACE Huntington and Pittsburgh Districts published in the Federal Register its respective permit applications LRH-2025-00287 (RGP) and LRH-2025-00151 (LOP). The public can view draft 401 Certification special and standard conditions at:

https://dep.wv.gov/wve/programs/pages/401certification.aspx
Written comments are due by September 23, 2025, and may be mailed or emailed to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Attn: WVDEP 401 Certification Program
601 57th St., S.E.
Charleston, WV 25304
(304) 926-0499, extension 41114
Fax: (304) 926-0463
E-mail: WQScComments@wv.gov

Correspondence should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues being raised. The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever a finding is made, based on requests, that there is a significant degree of public interest on issues relevant to the 401 Certification. Interested people may contact WQScComments@wv.gov to obtain further information.

LEGAL

Tariff Form No. 8-C
(Tariff Rule 14.2 et seq. (Historical Rule 30-C))
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY, a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, an application containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers at various locations in the Counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming.

The proposed changes in rates and charges will become effective November 1, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will increase revenues approximately \$44,564,000 annually, an increase of approximately 39.2%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY will be changed as follows:

	INCREASE	INCREASE
Residential	\$ 12.51	15.56%
Commercial	\$ 62.49	19.80%
Industrial	\$ 440.00	9.18%
Resale	\$ 1,479.55	28.10%

Proposed PGA rates for each Mountaineer rate schedule, which include Business and Occupation Tax, are as follows:

Rate Schedule	Present	Proposed	Increase \$	Increase %
RS	\$ 3.460	\$ 3.960	\$ 0.500	14.45%
RS Demand	\$ 11.08	\$ 20.59	\$ 9.51	85.83%
GS	\$ 5.308	\$ 7.391	\$ 2.084	39.24%
LGS	\$ 2.860	\$ 3.960	\$ 1.101	38.46%
WS	\$ 5.080	\$ 7.074	\$ 1.995	39.25%
IS	\$ 2.860	\$ 3.960	\$ 1.101	38.46%
LIS	\$ 2.860	\$ 3.960	\$ 1.101	38.46%

Resale customers of MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY include Canaan valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Consumers Gas Utility Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested increased rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing.

This filing also contains proposed changes to MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY'S rate components for customers that purchase their gas from an alternative supplier/marketer and purchase only transportation services including MDFQ, Storage Balancing Fee, Firm Standby Fee, and Fuel Retention Percentage from MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY. These transportation service rates are applicable to customers that voluntarily elect to subscribe to transportation service. The proposed changes to the rate components are as follows:

Rate Component	Present	Proposed	Increase \$	Increase %
MDFQ	\$ 12.952	\$15.861	\$ 2.909	22.46%
Storage Balancing Fee	\$ 0.483	\$ 0.609	\$ 0.126	26.09%
Firm Standby Fee	\$ 1.833	\$ 2.648	\$ 0.815	44.46%
Fuel Retention	4.00%	4.00%	N/A	0.00%

Any change in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. If a hearing is conducted, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following offices of the Company:

- Mountaineer Gas Company Office
- 501 56th Street SE, Charleston, West Virginia 25304.

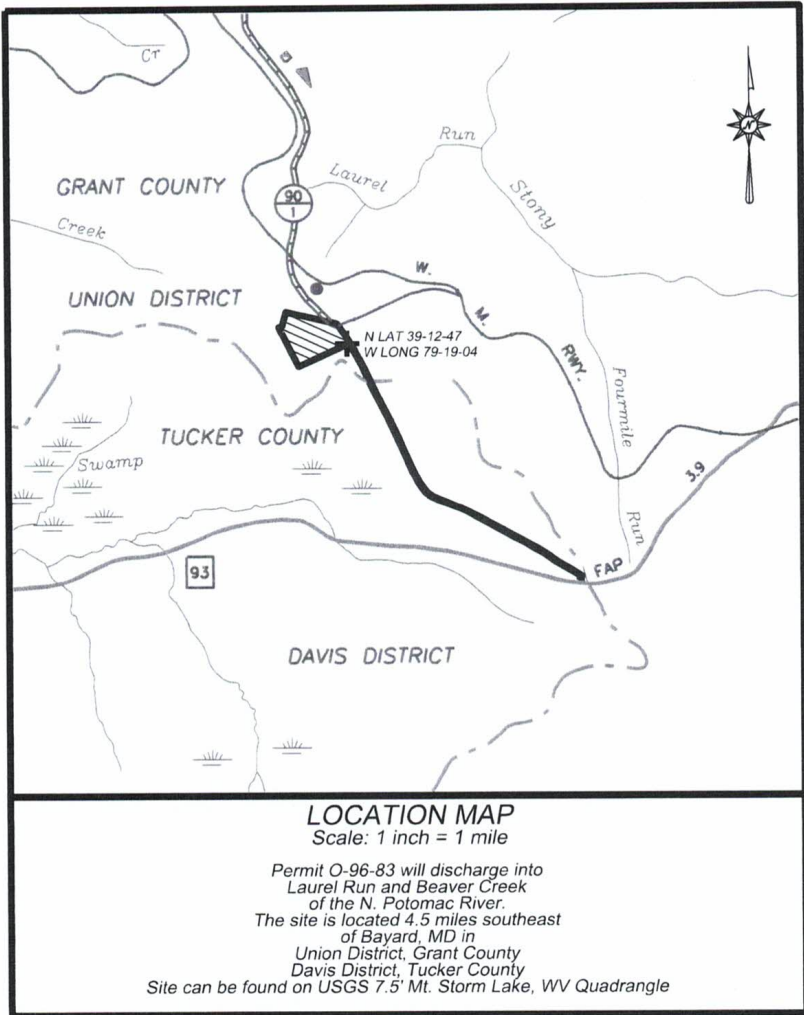
A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

The Rule 30-C procedure is designed to provide a procedure for changing rates charged to customers by natural gas distribution utilities based exclusively on the cost of purchased gas. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of such costs and the method by which they are calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty-five (25) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate adjustments and to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions must be mailed or hand-delivered and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that VINDEK ENERGY LLC, 100 TYGART DR, GRAFTON, WV 26354, has submitted an application with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV, 26416-1600 for a Phase 2 release on Permit Number O009683 issued for 52 acres. The permit is located in DAVIS District of Tucker County, 4.5 miles southeast of BAYARD on Laurel Run and Beaver Creek of N. Potomac River. VINDEK ENERGY LLC completed re-vegetation on 5/24/2018 and is requesting release of 25 percent of the reclamation performance bond currently in the amount of \$46,904.00. Written comments will be received at the DEP address above until 10/3/2025, or thirty (30) days from dated of final publication.



LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until September 09, 2025 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
020	2025880005	R388-GCRL-26 00		ContWrkTyp D8 2026 REM Guardrail D8 2024 REM Guardrail COUNTY: PENDLETON, POCAHONTAS, RANDOLPH, TUCKER

BRIDGE: Bridge BridgeClass

SPAN(S): STRUCTURE STEEL:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

LEGAL

CITY OF THOMAS
TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS
CEC #345-742
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Thomas for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements project until 2:00 PM, local prevailing time, on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 307 SPRUCE STREET THOMAS, WV 26292 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

All work summarized below shall be substantially complete within 150 calendar days after the date when the Contract Times commence to run and completed and ready for final payment within 180 days after the date when the Contract Times commence to run. Liquidated damages shall be \$1,000.00 per day. The approximate quantities of work may include the following Water Treatment Plant Improvements: Green Sand Treatment System to Remove Iron 1 LS, Site Work 1 LS, Site Electrical 1 LS, Site Piping 1 LS, Stone Pad for 10'x40' Container 1 LS, 10'x10' FRP Building for Chemical Feed Equipment 1 LS, 8" Tie-Into Existing Water Line 1 EA, 10" Tie-Into Backwash Line 1 EA, Crane Rental / Traffic Control 1 LS, Reclamation of Disturbed Area 1 LS.

Contract Documents for the project may be examined at the following locations:

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC)
120 Genesis Boulevard
Bridgeport, WV 26330
Project Manager: David L. Watson
Email: dwatson@cecinc.com
Phone: 304-848-7170
City of Thomas
307 Spruce Street
Thomas WV, 26292
Contractors Association of West Virginia
2114 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25311

A complete set of the Contract Documents in PDF format may be obtained upon request from CEC at no cost. A two (2) envelope bid system will be used. Each Bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope (Envelope No. 1, marked "BID ENCLOSED") which shall contain all documents required in the Bid Opening Requirements Checklist and a separate sealed envelope (Envelope No. 2, marked "BID PROPOSAL") containing the completed and signed Bid Form.

Envelope No. 1 will be opened first, and the items required in the Bid Opening Requirements Checklist shall be reviewed. If the reviewed documents are found to be in order, Envelope No. 2 containing the Bid Form will be opened and publicly read aloud.

If Envelope No. 1 does not include all the items on the Bid Opening Requirement Checklist or if any items are determined not to be in order, then Envelope No. 2 containing the Bid Form may be returned to the Bidder unopened. At that time, the Owner may declare the Bidder nonresponsive.

All Bidders are required to have a West Virginia Contractor's License as per Section *30-42-12 of the West Virginia Code. The license classification shall be appropriate for the work for which the bid is prepared. The bidder's license number shall be included in the first envelope as part of the Bid Opening Requirements. All subcontractor(s) shall furnish their contractors' license number(s) to the prime contractor prior to the award of the contract.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to City of Thomas in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this Advertisement for Bids are expected to be funded in part by grants and loans from the following: WVJDC and WDA EEG. Neither the United States, the State of West Virginia, nor any of their departments, agencies or employees are or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or any resulting contract.

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS CONTRACT MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS:

NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this order are explained in the Contract Documents.

SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

Recipient shall not entertain the use of businesses that are listed on the "System for Award Management (SAM)" at www.Sam.gov in accordance with 2 CFR Part 1532 and Subpart B and C of 2 CFR Part 180.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE CONFORMANCE

Contractor is required to provide the Drug Free Workplace Certification in accordance with WV Code 21-ID-5. West Virginia Code 21-ID-5 provides that any solicitation for a public improvement construction contract requires each vendor that submits a bid for the work to submit at the same time an affidavit of compliance with the bid. The enclosed drug-free workplace affidavit must be signed and submitted in the first envelope as evidence of the vendor's compliance with the provisions of article ID, Chapter 21 of the West Virginia Code. Failure to submit the signed drug-free workplace affidavit in the first envelope shall result in disqualification of such bid.

BIDDERS MUST COMPLY WITH THE TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, THE COPELAND ANTI-KICKBACK ACT, AND THE CONTRACT WORKS HOURS SAFETY STANDARDS ACT.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be conducted at 10:00 AM, local prevailing time, on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 307 Spruce Street Thomas, WV 26292. Attendance of the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory. This pre-bid conference may be attended virtually. Contact CEC to receive instructions regarding this attendance option.

All questions must be submitted by email to David Watson at dwatson@cecinc.com by 12:00 PM, on Friday, September 5, 2025.

The City of Thomas reserves the right to reject any or all bids. A bidder may not withdraw the Bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids.

This Advertisement is issued by:

OWNER City of Thomas
BY Jody Flanagan
TITLE Mayor

LEGAL

(2023-C-000015 - TUCKER COUNTY - CATO ENERGY LLC)

To: LEE HANSROTH, SHIRLEY HANSROTH, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT DRYFORK MAP 9999 PARCEL 0050 0330 0000

You will take notice that CATO ENERGY LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2023-C-000015, located in DRY FORK District, 1/24 M. & COAL 1900 CANAAN, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HANSROTH LEE ET AL, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent or nonentered lands of TUCKER County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 14, 2024. CATO ENERGY LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after November 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before October 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 5077.	\$ 101.51
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 5110.	\$ 4.86
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 107.92
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 627.12
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 245.68
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,087.09

You may redeem at any time before October 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest. If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand August 11, 2025

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of CLAY County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LET US KNOW "WHAT'S HAPPENING"
304-478-3533

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM



Melissa Wass

Wass selected for Enrollment Leadership Academy

GC admissions director to examine enrollment and recruitment trends

McHenry, MD – Melissa Wass, Garrett College’s director of admissions and recruitment, has been selected to participate in College Board’s 2025-26 Enrollment Leadership Academy.

The academy is a year-long program focused on leadership skills, strategic enrollment management, and developing the next generation of enrollment leaders, according to College Board officials. It’s designed for experienced admissions and financial aid professionals from member institutions with 5-10 years of experience in the field.

Wass, who started at Garrett College in 2014 as a part-time admissions counselor, was nominated by Kim DeGiovanni, GC’s registrar and associate dean.

“Melissa leads the admissions and recruitment team with reliability and professionalism, while also overseeing high school dual enrollment, managing international admissions, and supporting daily office operations,” DeGiovanni said of Wass. “She has played an instrumental role in working with Academic Affairs on strategic initiatives, including the implementation of the Maryland Blueprint for Success.”

The class of 1971 held their 54th reunion



Back Row: Bobbie Hottle, Frances Fluharty, Gabby Knotts, Beverly Rosier, Anna Mae Clay, Carolyn Jones and Marty Nestor. Front Row: Larry Mick, Sandie Kisamore, Beverly Stuart, Pam McCauley and Roy Arnold.

Wass transitioned to a full-time admissions counselor in 2015 and became coordinator of admissions in 2016. She was promoted to director in 2019 – about five months before COVID hit.

“It took several years for us to kind of catch up to where we’d been prior to COVID,” Wass observed. “With the pandemic behind us, this seemed to be a good time to move forward, begin networking with other colleges, and examine some of the nationwide trends in recruitment and enrollment.”

Dr. Robert “JR” Kerns, Garrett’s dean of student affairs, said Wass will be a valuable addition to the College Board program.

“Melissa brings a rare combination of strategic insight, steady leadership, and genuine care for the people and mission of our college,” said Kerns. “She has also consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to student success.”

“Melissa had been instrumental in helping the College return to pre-COVID enrollment levels, along with providing invaluable leadership on key initiatives like dual

enrollment and international admissions,” added Kerns. “This opportunity will further strengthen her leadership capacity as she prepares to take on even greater responsibilities in the years ahead.”

DeGiovanni agreed.

“With key leadership retirements anticipated in the coming years, Melissa is well-positioned to take on greater responsibility, and participation in the Enrollment Leadership Academy will be instrumental in further developing the skills needed for future leadership roles,” DeGiovanni said.

Wass said she came to GC in part because she has “always liked working with people and helping students.”

“This was an opportunity to help students find their path to success,” said Wass, who graduated from West Virginia University in 2007 with a degree in criminology. “I enjoy helping them meet their goals.”

College Board is a non-profit organization that operates the AP Program and SAT Suite, in addition to numerous other college-related programs. The ELA program includes eight meetings, four virtual and four in-person.



From left to right are: Mollie, a Barn Rat participant; Amelia Preush, Saddles and Smiles Program Director; Allison, Barn Rat Participant; Emma, Barn Rat participants; Wendy Steensland, TCGC Chairperson; Grace, Barn Rat Program participant

Tucker County Giving Circle Partners with Saddles and Smiles

The Tucker County Giving Circle is proud to be able to partner with Saddles and Smiles, a local not-for-profit organization, to host their second annual week-long Barn Rat Assistance Training Workshop. Aimed towards children from Tucker County, the program is free to all participants. Held throughout the summer at Saddles and Smiles on the Cortland Road in the Canaan Valley, children ages 12 and older had the opportunity to learn about horses and to become a part of the Barn Rat Program. The TCGC grant provided the funds to support the Barn Rats as they learn to care for the horses, while learning leadership skills, build-

ing confidence and self-esteem, and enjoying positive social interactions in a screen-free environment. In addition, the Barn Rats provide essential assistance during the three week-long horse camps hosted by Saddles and Smiles.

For more information regarding Saddles and Smiles and the Barn Rat Training Workshop, contact Amelia Preusch at amelia@saddlesandsmiles.org. To learn more about the Tucker County Giving Circle, contact TCGCofers@gmail.com. To apply for a TCGC grant, go to the Tucker Community Foundation website: TuckerFoundationWV.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Model Railroad Open House

It’s back to school and time for the Back to School Model Railroad Open house. The Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc. located at 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown, WV in the Mountaineer Mall will open its doors for a model railroad extravaganza on Saturday, August 23rd from 10am til 4pm and on Sunday, August 24th from 1pm til 4pm. Admission is Free! Donations are gladly accepted.

Come see all the work we have accomplished on our new HO scale layout, O gauge model railroad and N scale model railroad for your viewing pleasure. All our layouts represent West Virginia and the railroads that served our region. Trains will be running through the hills, across rivers and through towns all day long.

We will have six White Elephant tables with all kinds of used LIONEL and HO train items for sale. Free magazines, railroad postcards, tourist railroad and hobby shop information along with railroad historical displays. We will have pencils and color-sheets for the children!

So, All Aboard for a weekend of model railroading fun at the Back To School Model Railroad Open House. For



more information call Rich Henderson at: 304-276-1046. The Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt educational/charitable organization. Follow us on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MVRRHS> Or our website at: <https://MVRRHS.org>.

Foundation announces updates to Petersburg H.S. Scholarship

PARSONS – The Tucker Community Foundation in conjunction with the Rebecca Susan Alt Lanhardt Foundation is proud to announce updates to the Randall Alt Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund will now be called the Rebecca & Randall Alt Memorial Scholarship Fund. The updated fund will now provide a graduating senior (male or female) from Petersburg High School, that played a varsity sport, and will be attending a West Virginia School, a four year scholarship.

In 2017, Rebecca Lanhardt created the original scholarship fund in memory of her brother Randall Alt. Every year since then the Tucker Community Foundation has been awarding a scholarship to a Petersburg High School graduating senior, that participated in a varsity sport and was attending a West Virginia school, a scholarship for one year.

Rebecca S. Lanhardt passed away on February 23rd, 2022 in Gainesville, VA after a decade long battle with cancer. Her two living sons Shane and Seth Lanhardt created the Rebecca Susan Alt Lanhardt Foundation in her honor, to continue supporting the causes that were dear to her heart. The foundation is focused on enriching lives of those in need in Grant County and helping with cancer research.

Shane and Seth Lanhardt, along with the Rebecca Susan Alt Lanhardt Foundation, have added Rebecca’s name to the scholarship fund and added the additional funding into the scholarship to increase it from a one year scholarship to a four year scholarship.

Rebecca and Randall Alt were born in Petersburg, WV and were descendants of a family of pioneers who helped establish the area. The Alt family were entrepreneurs, adding several businesses to the area, adding to the welfare of Grant County. Many of the Alt family were teachers helping to promote education and a love of anything relating to West Virginia.

“Anyone can donate to the Rebecca and Randall Alt Memorial Scholarship Fund to help increase the number and or the amount of the scholarship provided to a Petersburg High School senior. Do you have someone that you would like to honor and memorialize forever? If so, contact the Foundation Office by email at mike@TuckerFoundationWV.org or you can call (304) 478-2930”, said Michael Moore, Chief Financial Officer for the Foundation. If you would like to donate to the Alt memorial scholarship fund or any of TCF’s other scholarship funds, make checks payable to TCF and put the name of the scholarship fund in the memo line and mail to Tucker Community Foundation, P.O. Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287. To see a complete list of scholarship funds or to make an online donation go to www.TuckerFoundationWV.org.

The Tucker Community Foundation manages more than 160 endowed funds providing annual scholarships and grants to nonprofits and charitable causes throughout its nine-county service area. Inspired by the flood of 1985, the mission of the Foundation is “creating opportunities for the individuals and communities we serve”. For more information on how to set-up an endowed fund or to learn about the Tucker Community Foundation, check out our website or call 304-478-2930.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PARSONSADVOCATE.COM

Arts and Literature

Mark Twain’s Advice on Growing Old

In a birthday speech, Twain spoke about habits, laughter, and the necessity of savoring peace.

By Jeff Minick
The Epoch Times
On Dec. 5, 1905, 170 friends and writers gathered at Delmonico’s in Manhattan to celebrate 70-year-old Mark Twain’s recent birthday. President Theodore Roosevelt sent a telegram of congratulations and praise, the press gave the event play in the papers, and people from around the country saluted Twain as the United States’ premier humorist and storyteller.

But it isn’t this glittering occasion that’s remembered as much as Twain’s address to his audience that evening. He was in fine comedic form, ruminating on “the time of life when you arrive at a new and awful dignity,” and bringing bursts of laughter from the crowd. In that speech, there’s a great deal of wisdom on aging, some of it only implied, that might benefit some of us today.

Twain’s Habits
“I have achieved my seventy years in the usual way: by sticking strictly to a scheme of life which would kill anybody else,” Twain said that evening. He pointed out that in the stories told by “garrulous old people we always find that the habits which have preserved them would have decayed us” and that “we can’t reach old age by another man’s road.”

He then expounded on the habits that he practiced that might be poison to others, beginning with his sleep routine. “Since forty I have been regular about going to bed and getting up—and that is one of the main things. I have made it a rule to go to bed when there wasn’t anybody left to sit up with; and I have made it a rule to get up when I had to. This has resulted in an unswerving regularity of irregularity. It has saved me sound, but it would injure another person.”

Of eating, Twain said, “For thirty years I have taken coffee and bread at eight in the morning, and no bite nor sup until seven-thirty in the evening.” Alcohol, he asserted, he could take or leave: “I have no rule about that. When the others drink I like to help, otherwise I remain dry, by habit and preference.”

His cigar smoking, to which he paid considerable attention, would appall many of today’s health-conscious crowd, old or young. “I have made it a rule never to smoke more than one cigar at a time. ... It has always been my rule never to smoke when asleep, and never to refrain when awake.” He noted, “I will grant, here, that I have stopped smoking now and then, for a few months at a time, but it was not on principle, it was only to show off; it was to pulverize those critics who said I was a slave to my habits and couldn’t break my bonds.”

As for exercise, forget about it. Twain said: “I have never taken any exercise, except sleeping and resting, and I never intend to take any. Exercise is loathsome. And it cannot be any benefit when you are tired; and I was always tired. But let another person try my way, and see where he will come out.”

Go Your Own Way
Well into his speech, Twain returns to a main point, saying, “I desire now to repeat and emphasize that maxim: We can’t reach old age by another man’s road.”

When we who are grown old compare ourselves favorably or unfavorably to our contemporaries—“He’s in such better shape than I am!” “I’m glad I don’t have to use a walker!” “How does she get away with drinking a bottle of wine every night!”—we need to think of Twain’s maxim. He understood that aging, like life itself, is an inexplicable combination of fortune, genes, and habit, and that one man’s meat is another man’s poison.

Twain’s insight is especially important in our age of social media. The dotting grandfather who reads news of an 80-year-old running marathons takes a blow to his self-esteem, unaware that the oldster eating up the miles long ago lost the affection of his children. The woman who spent 40 of her 75 years working in a hospital’s neonatal ward sees a contemporary on Facebook who looks 30 years younger and feels pangs of envy, forgetting that she has triumphed in life by helping to bring thousands of babies into the world. Avoid comparisons, and we’ll be happier.

Laughter Is the Best of Vitamins
At age 89, beloved film and television personality Betty White wrote of aging, “If one has no sense of humor, one is in trouble.”

By the time he stood before his admirers at that 70th birthday celebration, Twain had suffered financial calamities and the deaths of several loved ones, including a daughter he adored, Susy, and his wife, Olivia, of whom Twain wrote: “I am a man without a country. Wherever Livy was, that was my country.” The bitter cynicism of his later years regarding the United States, religion, and his fellow human beings reflected those tragedies and his dark sorrow.

Yet at the same time, as we can see in his Delmonico’s speech, Twain’s sense of humor and his appreciation of the absurd never deserted him. His capacity for laughter, often directed at himself, buoyed him up in his old age.

Comedian Phyllis Diller made jokes about aging a part of her act. “You know you’re old when someone compliments you on your alligator shoes, and you’re barefoot,” “I’m at

an age when my back goes out more than I do,” and “I have so many liver spots, I ought to come with a side of onions” were just some of her quips that poked fun at the aches and pains that come to all of us as the machinery wears down.

As Twain said: “Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”
A good supply of humor helps us not to mind.

What Were Troubles Become Trifles
At the end of his speech, Twain offered some more serious thoughts. According to a reporter, “the last words were spoken with a voice quivering in emotion,” reflecting Twain’s shift in mood,

“Your invitation honors me, and pleases me because you still keep me in your remembrance, but I am seventy; seventy, and would nestle in the chimney-corner, and smoke my pipe, and read my book, and take my rest, wishing you well in all affection, and that when you in your return shall arrive at pier No. 70 you may step aboard your waiting ship with a reconciled spirit, and lay your course toward the sinking sun with a contented heart.”

For readers wondering about that pipe, Twain enjoyed corncob pipes as much as his cigars, but what strikes us here is Twain’s vision of peace—nestling in the chimney-corner and finding rest, a spirit of reconciliation, and “a contented heart.”

Most of us today don’t anticipate sitting by a hearth, but we may well find that all of those anxieties that plagued us in the past—the school exams, the children we fretted over, the problems at work—are now diminished in stature, as if seen through the wrong end of a telescope.

Here, the differences between being a parent and a grandparent provide a nice analogy. The good parent worries constantly about doing the right thing by their 3-year-old; the good grandparent takes pleasure and joy from that same toddler.

Twilight
Perhaps that change of perspective is where the fabled wisdom of old age lies, in the realization that only a few things in life really and truly count for much. The years behind us now seem like fires that slowly burned away the extraneous, the overrated importance of power and money and most of the daily news, and the burdens of useless doubts and fears. Left behind are the purified truths of what really matters, such as love and honor and friendship.

Twain’s “sinking sun” will eventually fade into darkness. Meanwhile, however, for those able to apprehend that gathering dusk, it gives a lovely light.

Tucker County Heritage Art Exhibit Grand Opening

On August 30, 2025 from 1-3PM Friends of Blackwater will be hosting a Grand Opening Event celebrating the new Tucker Heritage Art Exhibit, a remarkable collection of Tucker County historical signage, full of exciting stories and images, created by award-winning graphic artist and historian David Vago.

This vibrant collection of heritage panels bursts with stories and local legends from 1889 - 1950 that bring the county’s rich and diverse history to life, and organized into four different collections, spread across Tucker County:

- The Thomas Rail Trail
- The Davis City Park
- William Avenue (Main-street) in Davis
- Blackwater Falls State Park.

Since Friends of Blackwater began this project in 2017, we’ve erected 38 panels for locals and visitors to enjoy,” explains Judy Rodd, Director of Friends of Blackwater. “We are incredibly proud of this collection by David Vago and the rich heritage of Tucker County that it chronicles.”

Thanks to a generous grant from the Benedum Foundation, the exhibit’s Grand Opening event will



feature music, refreshments, door prizes and short talks from Judy Rodd and David Vago.

The exhibit is open weekends from 11-5 during August and September, visitors to Davis can experience

the entire range of the Friends of Blackwater historical signage in one location—the basement of the Babcock Lumber Boom and Lumber Co. on William Avenue (The Wandering Caravan shop).

The Tucker Heritage Art Exhibit

The award-winning graphic artist and historian David Vago has created a remarkable collection of Tucker County heritage panels, full of exciting stories and images. Many have been posted around the County.

Now, during the month of August, you can see all of Vago's creations in one exhibit in downtown Davis, at the former Babcock and Lumber building at 437 William Ave, Davis WV. There is also a cool interactive display of YouTube videos that explain the artworks.

The free exhibit of David Vago's work will be open on the weekends. Come one, come all! For more info, call (304) 345-7663. You will enjoy experiencing David Vago's tribute to Tucker County's history and proud people.

Open underneath the Wandering Caravan building in Davis on

Saturday

Sunday

11 AM-5 PM

11 AM-5 PM

Possible with the generous support of the organizations below

Clarification

The bridge work completed early by the Division of Highways as reported on Corridor H in last week's edition included the correct area of U.S. 219 (Seneca Trail) located 2.70 miles north of the Randolph County line and ending approximately one mile south of County Road 219/10 (Moore Station Road). The story may have included a confusing or incorrect bridge name.

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NOTICE TO MON POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating March through September 2025 in the following counties in West Virginia:

Preston County and Tucker County (Albright-William #108-A, 138 kV)
Beginning south out of Albright Power Station, crosses Cheat River and St. Joe Road approximately ¾ mile from intersection with Route 7. The line then starts running south southeast, crosses Route 7 and Copeman Farm approximately 1-mile up Caddell Mountain, and continues running up the mountain eventually crossing Rag Tavern Road. The line continues running south southeast crossing Saltlick Road approximately ¾ mile south of the intersection with Bucklick Road and then runs up Kinsinger Run crossing Kinsinger Run Road and continues up the hill for approximately 2 miles where it crosses Lantz Ridge Road. The line then crosses Wolf Creek and soon thereafter crosses Route 50 just west of the state road garage, ending just past Little Wolf Creek where the line joins up with another transmission line. The line picks back up approximately 1.25 miles east of the aforesaid location and continues running in a south-southeast direction crossing Eglon Rd, Accident Road, and Hogback Road just west of its intersection with Route 24. The line then crosses Ed Sell Road, Evans Road and Mt. Grove Road before crossing Route 219 approximately 1.5 miles south of Silver Lake. The line runs up Backbone Mountain and down the other side crossing Kempton Road and Fairfax Stone Road before ending at the Williams substation near the intersection of Route 219 and Route 90.

For more information about Mon Power’s Transmission Aerial Saw Program, call 1-800-686-0022. When contacting, please alert our Representatives that your call is pertaining to our Transmission Aerial Saw Program.

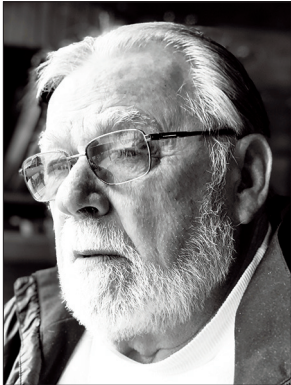
DEADLINE
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Obituaries

Williard Joe Chenoweth

Williard Joe Chenoweth, 80, a former resident of Parsons and more recently a resident of Mountain Memories in Elkins, passed from this life Saturday, August 9, 2025, at the assisted living facility. Joe was born on Saturday, January 6, 1945, in Elkins, a son of the late Willard O. Chenoweth and Betty Jo Row Chenoweth.

Left to cherish Joe's memory is a son, Marc Chenoweth and wife, Kerri, a sister, Cathy Sue Wingler, five brothers, Allen Chenoweth and wife, Debbie, Gary Chenoweth and wife, Marsha, Michael Chenoweth, Jeff Chenoweth and wife, Julie, and Kevin Chenoweth, and



several nieces and nephews. Preceding Joe in death besides his parents was a daughter, Rebecca Ann Chenoweth, a brother, Terry Chenoweth, a sister, Nancy Rogers, a stepmother, Adeline Paugh, and a sister-in-law, Susie Chenoweth. Joe graduated from Belington High School in 1962. He served in

Germany with the US Army from 1963 to 1966 achieving the rank of Sp5. He was employed with the Department of Highways as a Senior Engineering Technician for thirty-eight years. Joe was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Parsons. Joe's request for cremation was honored. A graveside service will be held at Parsons City Cemetery on Friday, August 22, 2025, at 11AM with Rev. James Snyder officiating. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Williard Joe Chenoweth. Send online condolences to the family at www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com.

Wilda Marie Bohon McBee

Wilda Marie Bohon McBee age 90 years, a resident of Morgantown, WV departed this life Monday afternoon, August 11, 2025, at her home, surrounded by her loving family and under the care of WVU Medicine Hospice. She was born Saturday, May 18, 1935, at Parsons, WV, a daughter of the late James Junior Bohon and Edna Marie Summerfield Bohon. On September 11, 1954, she was married to James Richard McBee, who preceded her in death November 18, 2003. Surviving are two sons, Richard L. McBee of Beverly, Robert D. McBee of Morgantown; two daughters, Anna M. Bonner and husband Thomas of Kerens, Anita L. Daugherty and husband Larry of McClellandtown, PA; one sister, Thelma Myers and husband Junior of Reedsville; seven



grandchildren, Tammy, Christopher, Amanda, Maria, Josh, Jordan and Jack "Jay"; ten great grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren. Preceding her in death are one daughter, Paula K. McBee; one brother, Willard Bohon; and two sisters, Lydia Credal, and Vonda Phillips. She attended the schools of Tucker County, had worked at the Masonic Eastern Star Home, White

Gables, and Nella's Nursing Home as a Nurses' Aide. She was a loving mom and a wonderful cook who made the best pumpkin pie and fruitcakes. She enjoyed quilting, embroidery, and canning. Wilda will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The family will receive friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Elkins from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, Saturday, August 16, 2025. Final Rites will be conducted at the funeral home, Saturday, at 1:00 PM. The Reverend Kevin Gainer will officiate and interment will follow at the Mountain State Memorial Gardens at Gilman, WV. The Lohr & Barb Funeral Home is honored to be in charge of the arrangements for Wilda Marie Bohon McBee. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.lohr-barbfuneralhome.com.

Sharon Ann Metz Watson Pifer

Sharon Ann Metz Watson Pifer, 79, a resident of Parsons, passed for this life on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at her home. She was under the care of Mountain Hospice. Sharon was born on Saturday, November 24, 1945, in Parsons, a daughter of the late Artie Carl Metz and Okie Cordle Metz. She was twice married. First, to Grover A. Watson and later to Dale A. Pifer, both of whom preceded her in death. Left to cherish Sharon's memory are three children, Becky Boyce of Grafton, Paula Lowther and husband, Donnie, of Hendricks, Tracy Ludwig and companion, Kurt, of Gastonia, NC, a special son, Thomas Bruce Summerfield, Jr. of Parsons, four stepchildren, Arvita D. Maxson and husband, Robin of Parsons, Melissa Isner of Parsons, Sandy Butcher and husband, Donnie, of Shaversfork,



Grace Snyder and husband, Scooter, of Parsons, five grandchildren, Heather, John, Hunter, Wyatt and Robbie, 7 great grandchildren, Colin, Ashley, Morgan, Rylan, Hudson, Nolan and Wyatt, two great great grandchildren, Madison and Maverick, a sister, Judy Stone, and several nieces and nephews. Preceding Sharon in death besides her parents and husband, was five sisters, Mary Sampson, Geneva Sullivan, Mae Metz, Glenda Gibbs, and Rose Gidley, three broth-

ers, Carl James "Bean" Metz, Kenneth N. Metz, and Eugene Metz, a son-in-law, Elbert Boyce, two grandchildren, CJ and DJ Joseph. Sharon was a graduate of Parsons High School with the Class of 1963. She was employed with the Cortland Acres Nursing Home in housekeeping for thirty years. Sharon was very dedicated to her job. She enjoyed gardening, scary movies, mysteries, and sitting and talking to the nursing home residents. Sharon was affiliated with the Hendricks Free Methodist Church. Sharon's request for cremation will be honored, and a memorial service will be held at a later date. The Hostetler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Sharon Ann Metz Watson Pifer. Send condolences to the family online at www.hostetlerfuneralhome.com.

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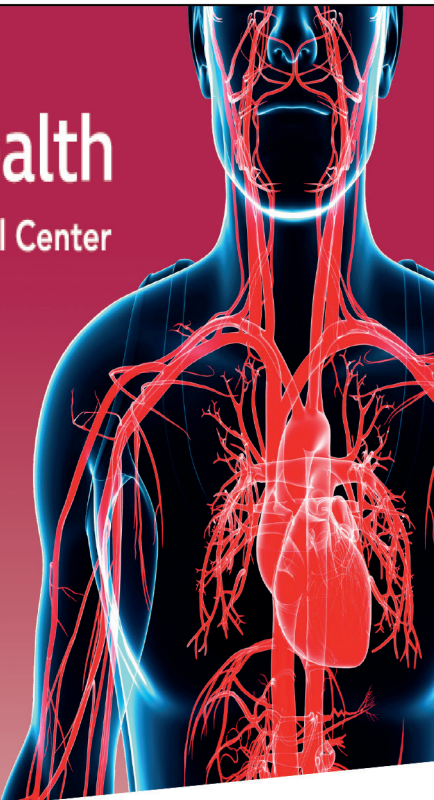
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Opinion

Beth Boehme - 'Potential Impacts of the Fundamental Data Ridgeline Project'

There’s a lot I think you should know about the power plant and data center proposed near Davis and Thomas, AKA the Fundamental Data Ridgeline Project. I write this out of deep concern about my friends, neighbors, and all residents of Tucker County, including those I’ve never met. My tone is meant to be friendly, thoughtful, and community building, with a gentle reminder that the power plant/ data center issue is not political. Although I don’t think this project matches the character of Tucker County’s landscape, I could support it if it were in a safer location.

Grab your goggles folks, because we need to dive in to see the inconvenient truths about this project. We can all agree we need both more and better paying jobs for our residents. More tax revenue for our county would be a good thing. Money is a powerful motivator for both those who have plenty and those who are in need, sometimes distorting judgement or morals. One could become rich selling drugs or stealing cars, but most would argue that these are dangerous, inappropriate sources of revenue. The dangers of this power plant so close to Davis and Thomas are a different kind of sell-out: selling out our health and well-being without any clear promises of jobs or tax revenue. Let’s talk about these.

JOBS. This power plant is very different from Mount Storm, so it is not a good comparison. Casey Chapman, the spokesperson for Fundamental Data won’t commit to any number of jobs, types of jobs, pay rate; wouldn’t ensure jobs would go to Tucker County residents or even West Virginia residents, nor would he commit to any training programs for our residents to gain employment at the plant or data centers. If he had a good deal for Tucker County, why won’t he go on the record about it with any news source? We know data centers employ very few people (Wall Street Journal) and that most data center jobs are during the construction phase. Typically those jobs are contracted out to outside companies (Business Insider).

REVENUE. According to multiple sources including the Parsons Advocate reporting the Ridgeline Project would fall under HB 2014, which means only 30% of the tax revenue would come to Tucker County, and the rest would go to Charleston. Our public schools would not benefit. Instead of Brian Bennett’s math, we can rely on real analyses of this intricate issue: WV Center on Budget and Policy is one example (see sources below). It’s too much to discuss here, but the 70% of revenue diverted to Charleston is a truly despicable deal.

HEALTH. The new power plant would release harmful chemicals into the air less than 2 miles from Davis and Thomas. This is NOT comparable to a gas cookstove as mentioned by Brian Bennett. Also, Brian states we shouldn’t be concerned about pollution levels because they would be within safety guidelines. I want you to know that the WV DEP has not done any modeling to understand what the concentration of these air pollutants will be here in Tucker County. Read that last sentence again. Are you shocked by this? If you pay close attention, the DEP ONLY says that Fundamental Data claims they will remain within regulated levels. This is very different from saying these levels are safe for us to breathe. They say they only have enough inspectors to check these plants

about every 2 years.

I want you to know air pollution from gas and diesel power plants:

- causes “premature mortality, lung cancer, asthma, heart attacks, cardiovascular diseases, strokes, and even cognitive decline, especially for the elderly and vulnerable individuals with pre-existing conditions [20–23].” (See the sources with these numbers at the end of the article)
- “Even short-term (hours to days) PM2.5 exposure is harmful and deadly, accounting for approximately 1 million premature deaths per year from 2000 to 2019 and representing 2% of total global deaths [24].”
- (What’s PM2.5? Tiny stuff released into the air, less than 2.5 microns- so tiny it can’t be seen, and it can go directly through your lungs into your bloodstream).
- We know “Globally, 4.2 million deaths were attributed to ambient (i.e., outdoor) air pollution in 2019” [25] and
- “electricity generation is a major contributor to ambient air pollution with substantial public health impacts [26, 36, 37]”
- “between 1999 and 2020, a total of 460,000 excess deaths were attributed to PM2.5 generated by coal-fired power plants alone in the U.S.” [38]

To add fuel to this fire, Fundamental Data won’t release the stack heights of the power plant to the public, yet they claim the power plant will be hidden by surrounding tree coverage. This suggests they will be emitting pollutants at ground level. Bad news for us.

Summary: although there are regulations on power plants, they don’t make it safe to build one so close to town. This is a very uncomfortable truth: these health impacts will happen here to you, your kids, your grandma. We don’t want Davis and Thomas to be news headlines in 20 years, or to be hitting headlines right away like Memphis due to their similar power plant.

WATER. Both Thomas and Davis have had significant water shortage issues in the last few years. You will notice careful wording in the air quality permit that might be true or might fool us into thinking water quantity (how much water) and quality (whether the water is healthy) won’t be problems. This permit application is only for the power plant, NOT the data centers. Casey Chapman would not guarantee water usage would not affect our aquifer. This means there is no guarantee that we would not be in the same situation as many individuals and municipalities next to data centers who have wells running dry. Who pays for that? Not the companies. It’s real (The New York Times).

OUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS. The potential scale of emergency response at this power plant with 30 million gallons of diesel is staggering. Spills, fires, explosions are rare, but they happen. Unless this has recently changed, Fundamental Data has not offered any help, plan, or money for our Rescue Squads and Fire Departments. This is shocking in a county that struggles to have adequate ambulance coverage and relies on volunteer firefighters.

WV House Bill 2014. “HB 2014 pre-

empts counties and municipalities from enacting, adopting, implementing, or even enforcing existing ordinances, regulations, or rules that limit the data center; exempts the data center from any zoning, building permitting, or license requirements; and says microgrid districts and data centers are not subject to any “legal jurisdiction” of the county or municipality in which they are located” (WV Center on Budget and Policy). That means no matter how bad this is for Tucker County, we can’t do anything about it.... unless we fight it off now.

To sum this up, we live in a beautiful place with friendly hardworking people, some of which haven’t had a fair chance at good jobs and financial prosperity. We have an opportunity to work out some hard truths in our county: we have needs and someone is dangling a carrot in front of us. Problem is, that carrot is 70% eaten and the 30% left is rotten. We have to do better. For our kids, for our elders, for our land, for our visitors, for you, for us.

Companies with integrity meet with local representatives, plan carefully for sustainable futures, offer communities benefits, money, and engagement. Representative governments don’t take local power away. We need all of our local representatives to stand strong and protect our local rights. Tucker County has already successfully fought off out of state garbage coming into our landfill (literally). Just because Fundamental Data’s potential building site is next to the dump, now isn’t the time to open our arms to out of state garbage.

We deserve better than this. Join the fight.

I hope to dive in again soon to discuss temperature inversion, electricity costs, housing shortages, noise, property value, trucks and infrastructure stress, and minor synthetic vs major source permit differences. Because I think you all, and Tucker County, are worth it.

Beth Boehme is a full-time resident of Tucker County. She wasn’t born in WV but fell in love with the state in 1999 and later married a 6th generation West Virginian. She doesn’t have any conflicts of interest, but is interested in kind, respectful conversation, bringing people together and finding solutions to challenging problems.

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ARC Seeks Applicants for Economic Revitalization Projects in Appalachia’s Coal Communities

Letters of intent are due September 12, 2025 for funding through ARC’s POWER Initiative, which creates new opportunities in Appalachian coal communities.

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 12, 2025– Today, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) issued a notice of solicitation of applications (NOSA) for its Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. POWER offers federal grant funding for projects that help Appalachian coal communities expand local and regional economies by creating high-quality, in-demand jobs, attracting new sources of private investment, and providing comprehensive workforce services and skills training.

Since its creation 10 years ago, ARC’s collective POWER investments are projected to have created or retained nearly 54,000 jobs and prepared nearly 170,000 workers and students for new opportunities in advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurship, tourism, agriculture and other growing industries.

“ARC’s POWER Initiative helps strengthen Appalachia’s coal communities while giving residents a say in the course of their own futures,” said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. “These communities have long been critical economic drivers for both our region and the entire country, and ARC believes in their ability to catalyze new development that will take them into the next generation of Appalachian prosperity.”

Successful POWER projects will demonstrate the ability to produce varied economic development outcomes, including broadening local and regional economic bases, creating stable employment opportunities, expanding workforce service and skills training, and attracting new sources of public and private investment. POWER projects can also entail plans to integrate activities with existing economic development strategies or

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If You Feel Different, You Drive Different. Drive High, Get a DUI.

CHARLESTON, WV -- From Friday, August 15, 2025, through Monday, September 1, 2025, the Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP), in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), will be working alongside local law enforcement for the “If You Feel Different, You Drive Different. Drive High, Get a DUI.” high-visibility enforcement campaign. The goal is to help prevent drug-impaired driving, to save lives, and to prevent serious injury. The GHSP is urging drivers to refrain from driving impaired.

“The bottom line is that no matter what the substance is, if a driver is impaired, they should not be driving,” said Jack McNeely, Director of the GHSP. “We want everyone to enjoy the last weeks of summer and the Labor Day holiday. We also want everyone to understand that it’s our first priority to keep people safe. Violating West Virginia’s drug-impaired driving laws can have severe and lasting consequences, both financially and potentially posing a risk to life.”

Many people believe that being high doesn’t affect driving abilities, but they are wrong. It has been proven that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane. In 2024, more than 30 percent of DUI arrests involved drivers impaired by drugs. In two GHSP regions, that percentage is 44 percent.

Those who plan to use drugs should not drive. Even over the counter and prescription medications can have impairing effects. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober ride home.

If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been using drugs and is considering driving, friends should be proactive, take away the keys, and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots an impaired driver, contact local law enforcement.

For more information on impaired driving, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving.

For more information about the West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program, visit highwaysafety.wv.gov or call 304-926-2509.

The purpose of the West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is to encourage, promote, and support highway safety across West Virginia through the implementation of federally mandated and funded highway safety improvement measures. The GHSP reflects Governor Patrick Morrisey’s ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety of every traveler by raising awareness of common dangerous driving conditions. GHSP safety initiatives aim to decrease impaired and distracted driving, increase seat belt and child safety seat usage, and target speed reduction, among other goals. Click here to learn more.

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Dear World...

MY YOUNG SON starts to school today...It's going to be sort of strange and new to him for awhile, and I wish you would sort of treat him gently.

You see, up to now he's been king of the roost...He's been boss of the backyard...His mother has always been near to soothe his wounds and repair his feelings.

But now things are going to be different.

This morning he's going to walk down the front steps, wave his hand, and start out on the great adventure...It is an adventure that might take him across continents, across oceans...It's an adventure that will probably include wars and tragedy and sorrow...To live his life in the world he will have to live in, will require faith and love and courage.

So, World, I wish you would sort of look after him...Take him by the hand and teach him things he will have to know.

But do it gently, if you can.

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, that all men are not true.

But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero...that for every crooked politician there is a great and dedicated leader...Teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend.

Steer him away from envy, if you can...and teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

In school, World, teach him it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat...Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone says they are wrong...Teach him to be gentle with gentle people and tough with tough people.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon...Teach him to listen to all men but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and take just the good that siphons through.

Teach him, if you can, how to laugh when he's sad...Teach him there is no shame in tears...Teach him there can be glory in failure and despair in success.

Treat him gently, World, if you can, but don't coddle him...Because only the test of fire makes fine steel...Let him have the courage to be impatient...Let him have the patience to be brave.

Let him be no man's man...Teach him always to have sublime faith in himself.

Because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind.

This is quite an order, World, but see what you can do...He's such a nice little fellow, my son!

By DAN VALENTINE

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